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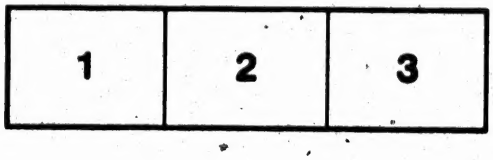

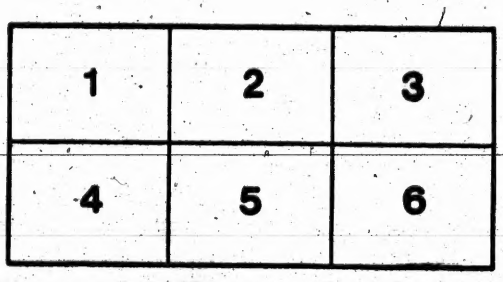

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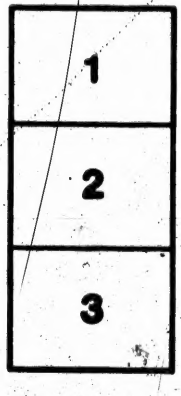

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REPORT of the singular results of Joseph Lancaster's new discoveries in Education made at Montreal, from the commencement of 1820 to the complete development of the systematic principle in 1823.

IN the Autumn 1819 JOSEPH LANCASTER arrived in Montreal intending, then, to go with his family to England and realize his intended new establishments in London.

Illness had however detained his family on the way from Albany, till the advanced season would not allow of proceeding on their voyage with safety.

At Quebec, he submitted to Sir James Kempt the mode of his intended establishments. "That will be demonstrative" was accompanied with his approbation and a liberal donation.

He returned to Montreal and requested of the Committee of the Lancasterian School, the loan of eight ignorant boys of about six or seven years of age, who could spell words of two letters. This was readily granted. In the month of October 1820, these eight pupils were admitted, three of

[illegible] with tolerable correctness; but were quite unable to [illegible] ages five and six years.

Two others could spell words of three letters with *difficulty*—ages, six and eight years.

One could spell words of two letters with *difficulty*—age, five years. Of three more, two were very deficient in the alphabet, and one did not know his small alphabet—ages, five, six, and eight years.

This state of attainment, or rather ignorance, was taken from the class books; impartial records made before the entrance of J. L. into [illegible]. In [illegible] than six weeks the pupils were examined by their former [illegible]. He proceed in a parlour above. The pupils were sent one at a [illegible] left to examine at his pleasure. What was his surprise [illegible] to find them ALL READ and READ

[illegible] ordinary number of the Bible, or Testament [illegible] letters.

[illegible] a most child, read much more slowly than either

One, who was of a stammering tongue, and five years of age "read a considerable portion of the first chapter of John and other parts of the New Testament, with correctness and fluency."

The last boy, eight years of age, "read the first of John with tolerable correctness."

This degree of progress made by those who could spell words of two or three letters, compared with those who did not know their alphabet on admittance was completed in three or four weeks, in proportion as much greater and earlier as their previous acquirements were superior. He saw the possibility of improving the whole operation more powerfully, and at this time he is satisfied, that two or three weeks, or less, would now be sufficient to make the same improvement with the whole of a class having similar attainments.

J. L. in the beginning of 1830 resolved to advertise for pupils, and commence another class.

This commences a second experiment which was also crowned with the completest success. But it had its drawbacks—the pupils did not enter altogether. The operations therefore did not go on simultaneously. They were children of a richer class, and on the least change in their health, or any thing unfavorable in the weather, were kept at home, no man could blame this paternal solicitude, but in all cases, and in all schools, it is a just ground of complaint.

Many of the pupils would also occasionally come late. To counterbalance these things we had our boys of the former class to assist a little in teaching; but they were so young in experience as to need almost as much direction as they gave help.

After the first experiment the statement was printed and circulated among many of the most respectable citizens of Montreal—of these many called to ascertain the facts for themselves. Among the rest came L. J. Papineau, Speaker of the Assembly. He was fully satisfied, and after hearing the pupils read, and signing his name to a testimony in favor of the experiment, laid down, unasked, a donation of twenty dollars, saying, that the good done to so many young children freely, could not have been accomplished without sacrifice of time and expense, which ought to be remunerated. This act is in justice mentioned to his honor, whatever different feelings may result from his having since pursued a different line of conduct on other subjects. It is not the wish of the writer to do him any injustice, or omit any mention of any thing in which he has acted worthy of his *original* motives as a friend of public education.

To resume the subject, the second experiment went on. In a short time another examination was held, and a more delighted auditory of friends and relations never assembled at any school.

The pupils who had been subjects of the former examination now read with great fluency. The spelling took a more copious range in the language. They had not quitted the use of slate and pencil, but had learned that of the pen: several of them presented copies of text hand words, small hand copies, receipts and letters of their own writing, to the company. A learned judge, present, observed that he had "seen many documents presented in a court of justice, which were written and signed by men, whose writing was worse." These pupils were six years of age, and a month only in the use of their pen.

But these pupils formed only part of the exhibition, twenty-four pupils had been admitted since the first of the first month.

The examination took place on the tenth week. The youngest of them had begun to read in the sixth or seventh week.

Four who could spell words of two or three letters, learned to read in a few days, and at the examination could read any where with fluency.

Fourteen had acquired the art of spelling and reading in five, six, or eight weeks. Several of them also could, write, numerate, make figures, and had began to learn small sums.

Six were recent beginners, but had made some progress; satisfactory for the time they had been at school.

The ages of many of them were under four, five, six, &c.

Some of them had become teachers and much improved themselves by it.

The Speaker having engaged to present a petition to parliament for an aid to the Institution, it had been sent down by his hands to Quebec.

A memorial was drawn up and read to the company, recommending the institution to the aid of parliament, and stating the facts of the case. The company vied with each other who should sign first, or most willingly, and the original memorial was forwarded in time to aid its proper business in the Assembly.

A parliamentary grant of £200 was soon after made. The only drawback on it was, some unfounded aspersion of one of the members. We thought Cuvillier had been a better judge of merchandise than to deal in such unsavory notions; but as we found the public did not mistake abuse for argument we left his *sour crout* unnoticed. But his, is not the only case, in which the bigotry of political party spirit, has been a cankerworm at the root of good qualities, and otherwise noble benevolence.

We removed to a less central, but more commodious habitation. In the former respect it was inconvenient to a number of our pupils who came from a distance, but the school, which at the second examination was only 32 in all, soon exceeded 58.

We need not give the instances of success at our second examination, they were a theme of delight and satisfaction that time will not soon bury in oblivion, nor the most capricious malice or envy be able to deny.

We now come to a third experiment which embraced other objects, and applied to another class of pupils.

In the summer 1831, and winter before 1832, two other examinations took place. The pupils not only consisted of a minor class, exemplifying what had been before demonstrated; but the performances of a considerable number of pupils who were of an age from 9 to 13, and 15 years had become subjects of new experiments.

Much progress had been made in arranging a series of appropriate lessons for reading and writing and arithmetic, which would have incurred expences double the amount of all parliamentary grants, had not a private press and personal labour saved that cost, by the sacrifice of time and industrious application.

In a great number of cases, a most superior hand writing has been obtained. Questions in the higher rules, as well as the elementary branches of arithmetic have been performed with a celerity, accuracy, and beauty, that have excited surprise and given satisfaction to practical and skilful observers.

The object of experiments in these classes, has been to develope practical and systematic principles, on which substantial education may be expedited—to save the time of teacher and pupil in education—to lessen the expences—to simplify the process of instruction—and finally, promulgate it to all mankind.

These objects have been attained as far as the elucidating a series of principles, simple materials, and new processes for acquiring knowledge.—When rapidly advancing to perfection in writing, arithmetic, grammar, geography, &c. school was interrupted by the cholera, and the preparatory labour lost to a very great extent, though the experience remains.

The school was visited in the summer 1831, by Lord and Lady Aylmer, Sir John Caldwell, and Col. Heriot, M. P. who expressed their high satisfaction.

Speaker Papineau repeatedly visited the school and expressed his approbation, as did a number of other gentlemen, among whom was Stanley Bagg, Esq. our late worthy candidate for the West Ward.

The result of these experiments are, that the first and most difficult and most important experiment can be carried on in the midst of a school of sixty pupils, of various ages and attainments. This is important, because the great bulk of all common schools rarely exceed that average number—village population does not admit that they should.

And that much auxiliary assistance may be obtained from pupils themselves, by self-tuition—or as monitors, by certain directions, differing in various cases, but operating to one end.

The last MINOR CLASS EXPERIMENT was completed recently, and particulars of a notarial examination are annexed.

The ages of the pupils were, two of nine years, one of eight, five of seven, two of six, three of five, and one of four, seven of whom did not know their alphabets from five to eight years old—one simply knew his alphabet, knew not how combine two letters—three could spell a few words of two letters—spelling and reading out of the question—one could spell words of three letters with difficulty—two could spell larger words, had learnt to read, but lost much of it during four months vacation from the cholera.

One of the above was a Canadien, unable to speak a word of English.

PROGRESS ON EXAMINATION.

All of them could read, most of them write, several make the figures, and all spell long words.

The junior pupils could read without any assistance from pointing—several of the youngest pointed with their own fingers. They had gained the art of self-correction when they committed an error. They could also read or know any of the lesson words singly, or in connection. Two of them had been impeded by sickness, and therefore could not be expected to equal the others. For particulars reference is given to the notorial statement.

By this process the children of a nation may be instructed in reading in a very short time, under properly trained and practically qualified teachers.

With proper lessons, constructed purposely for that object, the same improvement may be rapidly made in writing, arithmetic and other branches of

elementary knowledge. The time and expense requires funds for this public object.

The application will not bear only on one language, it applies to all. The difficulty which arises from acquiring the knowledge of foreign character, and the varied pronounciation of living tongues excepted. But this difficulty will be no greater than usual for a Frenchman to acquire English, or an Englishman to acquire French.

Joseph Lancaster having discovered and brought his inventions, by the test of experiment, to a considerable degree of perfection, is willing to publish them to the world, desiring to furnish all mankind with the results of his experience, as far as it can have any tendency to banish ignorance, or secure the education of every child who may hereafter be born in every nation under heaven.

FUNDS OF HIS INSTITUTION IN MONTREAL.

The last grant of the Parliament of Lower Canada was £100 currency, to enable Joseph Lancaster to support his Institution. The total grants amount to five hundred pounds currency. The duration of the Institution, three years and one-half, allowing from the Legislature a little more than 140 pounds per annum, a trifle above the salary of the master of the common Lancasterian school in this city.

Sir James Kempt's donation £20. Lord Aylmer's £20. Speaker Papineau £5. Joseph Burlingham, of Laprairie, £5. 1830. Total £50. When these donations are added, they will not make an income of £200 per annum, whereas that sum is common salary for the head clerks in mercantile houses, and in many cases has been exceeded by the salary of a Lancasterian teacher, either at New Haven, New York or Albany. Though none of them pretending, to either Joseph Lancaster's inventive powers, or personal experience.

Yet the public may remember that the salaries of clerks and teachers are altogether their own. That the expenses of mercantile houses and public schools belong to the parties or the public, and that the total income of the clerks and teachers are free and unincumbered.

But not so with the income of Joseph Lancaster. The half of his house room has been, above three years, occupied for public purposes. The rent alone would make a deduction which with school firing would be several hundred dollars. The desks, moveable fittings up of the school-room, paper, stationary, rewards, printing of school lessons for experiment; would, in three years, go far to taking away more than 1000 dollars.

To this we have to add, that of above 250 pupils, admitted within the time, one half have either been actually free, or at such a small charge as bears not the name of compensation.

The publication in the House, that 40 free scholars were under tuition, did not enhance the private funds of the school, because the Commissioners did not enquire into the nature of the selection, or the motive which induced J. L. to select *them* as the material for his experiments, which would be more under his controul, and might be dismissed if irregular or disorderly. The

parental blessings which spring from this class have been a rich reward for all his attention to them.

The printing press and types wich have been used in this establishment, if employed in regular business, ought to have produced in the time a larger profit than the amount of all the Parliamentary grants, but it was impossible, from the situation of the premises, to use them for any other purposes than producing lessons for experiment or rewards.

The hours before and after school, are usually at the disposition of the teacher. But Joseph Lancaster's time, even in regular vacations, much more the surplus daily hours have not been his own. Printers know well what the composition of a demy half sheet is, even in large type, much more pica or english. They know that for a person who had never before been used to personally work at case or press, to do both, and to superintend school six hours in the day, must be no light work. Few men will be surprised to hear that 14 and 16 hours application has been frequent, and that he has often carried on the work till near midnight. Twice the amount of his actual clear income would not have paid him for half his annual labour. To the Parliament, and to all who have granted him their aid, on the pure motive with which Earl Dalhousie first welcomed him to this Province. Sir James Kempt patronised him. Lord Aylmer visited him. Horatio Gates, (but silence gratitude—name not his forbidden praise, for he will say IT IS A SIN!) or Speaker Papineau, at first behaved nobly to him, (sorrowful perversion afterwards!) All, all, have his thanks, yet the actual gain of such a Parliamentary gift, does not seem to be so enormously large, considering how long the city of Montreal had had the benefit of his system; does not seem of much magnitude, compared with the benefits arising from schools in his name. Does not seem worthy being made the subject of a threat out of Parliament, or a political tirade within its walls.

During the time I have lived in Montreal, I have not been idle in shewing my gratitude to its benevolent citizens. When in the commencement of my career, I had a donation list opened, why did I not follow it up? Hearts and houses were open to me! I could not advocate the cause of the poor emigrants and raise £100 for my own Institution besides. I gave the poor the preference. Again I waved my right. When the cholera came my suffering, dying neighbours had a prior claim, and I repent not acknowledging it.

But now my parliamentary funds are no more. I cannot support an institution without funds. I suspend it, not to abandon a jot of its objects, but to raise funds to pursue them more effectually, while I have life and breath. I have kept up my institution to the time, and beyond the time for which the last grant was made. I could not, under such insulting circumstances, apply to parliament for another, *I had considered too well how the land lay.* I have another and a nobler parliament to apply to. Are there not thousands and tens of thousands of Britons grown up to adult years, and some in prosperous, if not high life, who know my life's labours? And who, if the question is asked, who have been educated in Lancaster's schools? will answer with voices to resound over the mountains and valleys of the empire, "we have."

A man who draws no sword, who points no gun in warfare may yet be like

> "Some village Hampden, that with dauntless breast
> The little tyrant of his field withstood."

and yet neither pretend to be a Milton, or a Cromwell. Would such a man, raised

> "The applause of listening senates to command,
> The threats of pain and ruin to despise,
> To scatter knowledge o'er a smiling land,
> And read his history in its children's eyes."

would he be acting like himself to barter his vote for bread, if strength was left to earn, or to beg it, would it not be marvellous for such a man as could live on mutton to seek what the influential breath of bribery had flyblown or contaminated? surely such a being, if such a being there be, under the noble name of Briton, ought to be degraded from his rank and condemned to feed on PAP all his life long.

We turn from these painful themes—they sorrowfully shew blemishes from which we wish the noblest character of man to be redeemed. We turn to consider the funds of the Institution, and

The INSTITUTIONS which may be benefited by this discovery,

1. Unlike the original Lancasterian system, it will apply to private tuition by a mother or private tutor, as well as to a large class or entire school. It will need special directions for this application.

2. It will apply to a small class under a private tutor, with two or more pupils, only requiring more lessons and practical training, practical instructions.

3. It will be useful in all academies and schools taught by a pricipal and assistant. It will bear not only on classes but individuals, and in those cases which present the most difficulty, render the greatest service.

4. It will apply in village schools where monitors are used, or where the teacher acts alone.

5. To sabbath schools and their teachers, with all the pupils who cannot read, it can be made a most delightful assistant by rapid improvement in spelling and reading.

6. To missionary schools of every christian denomination over the world, it will be a powerful auxiliary, as its principles are general—its application to so many languages will need peculiar directions, but its effects will be blessed to all.

7. Its applications to circulating or rotary schools will be of use. These schools move from point to point, in any one district, till all points are benefited by the circulation of knowledge in schools, [which are thus moveable in thinly populated places. The more rapidly the pupils can be improved, the more rapidly will the circulating mediums of knowledge come round. Among others the Gaelic schools of Scotland may partake of its utility.

8. Schools for adults, and schools for the blind, deaf and dumb, all will more or less be capable of receiving improvement from this invention.

9. Lancasterian schools and all institutions of a kindred nature may most largely partake of the improvement.

The pupils who are usually placed in the first class, will in a single day be able to spell in the 4th, 5th, or 6th, the difficulty of learning the alphabet being entirely overcome.

The pupils who never usually began reading in four and six months, may read with the 6th class in one month to six weeks or less.

The Bible, Tract and Cheap Book Societies' publications will be most extensively advanced in circulation by the means of a rapid increase of readers, and every friend of all these Institutions and of the advance of knowledge among mankind, may well derive pleasure in contributing to hasten a publication which has a tendency to promote such objects. For what are civilizing books without readers?

Joseph Lancaster has, in honorable confidence, submitted his improvements and explained their principle to a number of respectable gentlemen, in whose honor, that they will not be communicated till he publishes them, he has implicit faith. They have recommended the opening of a subscription, at one dollar per copy, to be paid at the time of subscribing, for a publication which shall contain the principles and particulars of this discovery. The price will be enhanced to non-subscriber. And as the plans cannot be operated upon without the proper lessons and material of school instruction, they recommend a donation fund for enabling J. L. to publish them at a cheap price, and also for enabling him to carry into effect, and pursue his experiments in education, to their utmost possible extent.

The interests of his family, and the education he intends to give his own children, require him to pursue some of his experiments yet further, and also oblige him to secure his copyrights on behalf of his wife and family.

The interests of benevolence and education require that he should promulgate his improvements for friends and foes as soon as possible. In wishing so do, he cannot speculate on printing large editions, but the instant two thousand copies are subscribed for and the funds provided, the work will go to press, and he will make special application for promotion of this objects.

If the donations are sufficient to enable him to employ the labour of others, and direct and superintend the experiments he has yet in view. He may succeed more rapidly without fatigues, which are too much for his strength and age.

The printed circular issued by J. L. in 1829, was followed by an increase of the school. In the spring 1830, the second examination took place, which produced numerous applications for admission.

L. J. Papineau, the Speaker of the House of Assembly, visited, inspected the pupils and signed a document certifying their improvement. Before Parliament was assembled, another examination was held and a memorial drawn up on the spot, and signed by many of the most respectable citizens, recommending the memorial for aid to the Legislature. This Petition the Speaker took down to Parliament himself, and when the Committee reported a grant of only £100, he made a motion to double the amount, which was carried by a large majority. The second year he again visited the school, minutely examined the progress of the pupils, and a Parliamentary grant of the same amount was carried. The third year the public resources being much less, only one hundred pounds was granted. The Commissioners appointed by Act of Parliament (for visiting schools receiving parliamentary aid,) attended unexpectedly, and met the speaker at the time appointed by him; they expressed, and reported their satisfaction. The kindness of the speaker continued to be distinguished by that good will to the system, which had marked his public conduct during fifteen years, before he was personally known to its founder.

The Speaker said if J. L. would give up to parliament, the discovery of the process whereby he brought forward pupils so rapidly, he had no doubt that they would grant him a liberal sum. To this, J. L. replied, that he had a series of experiments in view, and appropriate lessons to prepare;—that his discovery would be unavailing to any persons, without lessons to carry it into effect, and that he would rather wait and bring them out altogether in perfection, than communicate a single portion grounded on one experiment only.

During the last two years, the overwhelming influx of emigrants, many of whom were in circumstances of great distress, necessarily occupied the attention of the public, when he felt himself called upon to aid and serve them, which occasioned a delay in perfecting his improvements.

He made no application to the present session of parliament, because of the name in which threats had been used, implying that he should have no grant if he exercised his right of voting on the principles of British freedom. He preferred rather applying to his friends all over the world, than to ask for support where aid had already been considered as a badge of slavery, or as easily perverted to an influence equal to to a bribe for electioneering purposes.

If the Speaker himself had been the candidate, J. L. would doubtless have voted for him on the ground of the interest he had always taken in public education; and he regrets, he should ever have to lament, that what he esteemed so noble, what he praised so justly, what he approved so much as public zeal for education, should have been perverted by party spirit, to a blot, a degrading blot, on all that was so excellent. Did not the number of persons, the words, the actions, all accord with the threat of Lafontaine, publicly uttered at the poll; he should not have considered all concerned, as walking by the same rule, and pursuing the same purpose.

J. L. never interfered in the election, nor did he take any interest in it, until he observed in the newspaper, his neighbour P. E. Leclere's name as chairman of a meeting for the nomination of candidates, the following conversation took place in the street:—

J. L. So neighbour Leclere, I hear thou art electioneering.

P. E. L. I do not think Dr. Tracy a suitable person to represent this city in parliament, and I am endeavouring to introduce Mr. Bagg.

This was the first decided information J. L. had on the subject.

J. L. Nor I neither. For I think Dr. Tracey a very unfit man for a representative, and I have a great respect for Stanley Bagg. I do not know that I live in the Ward, or that I have a vote—I never voted in my life; but if I have one, I shall be willing to give it, if it comes to a sharp point.

P. E. L. Certainly you have a vote.

J. L. Then in case it comes to the last five or six votes, call on me.—Do not call but in case of necessity, and then depend on me.

L. E. L. Thank you sir—thank you. Good night.

Stanley Bagg's son was one of my pupils, hence arose my *acquaintance* with him, which, with my general knowledge of his character induced me to promise my vote.

Could J. L. imagine the interest of the Speaker would be used to control his vote for Dr. Tracey? But I did not even suppose that there was either friendship or connexion between the Speaker and Dr. Tracey; however singular might be some of their political sentiments, all that I promised

gain, to exercise the least particle of British freedom, that I could exercise—the right of voting according to the best of my judgment—I neither designed nor desired any thing more. To attend public meetings—to make speeches—to go all lengths with any party—to solicit suffrages, or to influence votes, was utterly one of my thoughts. *But my word was given*—no question could arise but what must involve my integrity, and that was of far more consequence to me than a vote, or a patron.

During my life, I have more than once been tempted to sacrifice my integrity for place, pension, or preferment. The highest door of hope was once opened by the highest hands, if I could *conscientiously*, join the church of England; but no good will—no, not devoted good will to the wish of my beloved sovereign and patron, George the Third, could induce me to sacrifice *conscience, nor did he wish it* at such an *expense*, nor yet take the least umbrage at my unhesitating choice.

Could it then be expected that time, or age, or loss, or trouble, had so changed me in Canada, that I could give my word to the exercise of my right, only to break it, and tamely sacrifice that right under the inuendoes, the warnings, or threats of the few days following my promise?

It was not till the heat of the contest ran high that any man from the other party called on me respecting my vote, It seems that the sums granted by parliament, and hope of the future, were considered a sufficient bonus to secure my vote, and it was not till the report of my promise that I was thought a fit person whose independant vote should be solicited.

The first person who came as on his usual business, bringing his child to school, was Jacob De Witt, M. P. P.

He was loud in his encomiums, and so far from expressing dissatisfaction on any occasion, had professed to urge every grant made to J. L. which his letters can prove. In consequence of a conversation in which it was proposed by a certain time, to carry her improvement so far forward, as to enable her in case of going down to Quebec, on the 15th of November last, to copy her father's correspondence, and write at his dictation. She was considered engaged as a pupil till that period. But when her father called on this occasion a conversation took place, in substance as follows:—

J. D. W. My wife is desirous of removing my daughter to a ladies' school.

J. L. She is at a ladies' school already. She is under the immediate care of my wife and daughter—she is in class with her own female relations, and I consider her engaged until November, after which time I can have no objection to any alteration you please.

J. D. W. I do not attach much importance to the idea myself, *but how do you vote at t' is election?*

J. L. I am engaged by a promise, accidentally made to vote for Stanley Bagg, whom I esteem as a very honest man.

J. D. W. An honest man! (*emphatically*) You are mistaken indeed.

J. L. That is matter of opinion, and every man has a right to his own sentiment; but I have also reason, (not political) why I cannot vote for Dr. Tracey.

J. D. W. Replied, "I do not say much for Dr. Tracey—I do not like the man; but it is the cause I consider.

J. L. All my life, I have abstained from party politics: I have given a promise, neither thinking about, nor in any way entering into them, it is now a question of moral integrity—and if called upon I must vote according to promise.

J. D. W. *Consider* now what you are doing, you are voting for Cuvillier, your enemy—you are voting for another man, (whom he named) your enemy—and you are voting against your friend Papineau, and *all* your friends.

J. L. Indeed I am not voting for any them, for when I gave my promise, my only knowledge and comparison was choice between Stanley Bagg and Dr. Tracey. I had, no other motive then, and I have none other now; but I hear my friend Papineau's name is used very freely on this subject. Does he use his influence?

J. D. W. He does not use his influence himself, but his friends do it for him.

J. L. Circumstanced as I am, I feel bound by my word and cannot go back, if I would, I am pledged to come forward only if the election depends upon the last five or six votes.

J. De Witt, well, THEN, and not till *then*, (emphatically) as if certain of carrying the election; and here the interview closed.

In the mean time, the sweet little girl, about whose continuation at school this conversation began, daily brought *little whispers*, that her mother was very anxious to remove her from school, but her father objected—to all which she was answered, that she was engaged till November, and her mother would not wish her father to break his word; and that go where she would *then*, we should always love *her*, for she had loved her book, and that we should pray that God would bless her.

This was considered as a mere exhibition of electioneering intrigue not uncommon in elections. But we did *wonder*, at it greatly, in Jacob De Witt, from whom we expected the fullest liberality both for the principle of faithfully adhering to a promise, not in itself sinful, and secondly as a friend of liberty and individual freedom. From *him*, we could never expect such a consideration as influencing a vote, to be acted on by the threat of removing a Child from School, or the danger of loosing Parliamentary influence. Our Scholars and our Grants were not solicited on such conditions—nor should we have accepted them on terms so degrading.

The Child was sent to another School the day after J. Lancaster's vote was given.

J. L. has been credibly informed, that prior to the elections, an offer was made to Stanley Bagg Esq. to ensure him success if he would give a pledge to go with a Majority of the House of Assembly—and even certain concessions were offered as a *sacrifice*—among which was that of refusing aid to Joseph Lancaster's Institution.—Thus the very party who were the only People to ask J. L's. vote and to threaten him on account of it, were those who having as they thought bought him, were ready to sacrifice him for their Interest! Alas poor fallen Humanity!

After Jacob De Witt's visit the election contest grew more severe, J. Lancaster remained minding his School duties, neither soliciting nor influencing votes, though he had ample means, if he became a partizan to prove himself not a powerless one.

He was repeatedly sent to by the Committee, who saw his name on the list of Stanley Bagg's voters, without any conditions attached to it, and perhaps knew of none, but he always declined till the exact time came to which he stood engaged.

After having declined one of there applications—one Morning he was visited by a Gentleman who announced himself as Mr. Bruneau, the Brother-in-Law of Mr. Speaker Papineau and stated his business—Mr. B. I am come to solicit your vote for Dr. Tracey, on behalf of the Country.

J. L. My vote is engaged to Stanley Bagg, but certainly from what I know of Dr. Tracey I could not vote for him.

Mr. B. I must tell you that the Members of the House of Assembly who voted for the grants to you will take it very ill if you vote against them.

J. L. It is not a vote against them. Had I perhaps weighed the thing I should have done as I have always done, not voted at all on such an occasion, but without political motive, or party feeling, I have accidentally given my promise, and cannot break it. Besides—I think I know my friend Papineau—He has too high a sense of Honor to wish me to break my word. He can believe what I say on my plain statement, but if I did what is now asked I must lose his confidence. He would never trust me any more! I am certain he is *too Honorable* a Man to wish me to degrade myself, in such a manner.

Mr. B. with Emotion "you're right, you're right."

Seeing that my plain statement had its full effect, I felt perfectly satisfied that no offence would be taken at my vote and that I had only to seek a proper occasion for stating to the Speaker himself my motives for action to have the same answer re-echoed, yet on reflection there seemed a strange coincidence between the visit of this Gentleman and the language of Jacob De Witt's recommendation to consider, whom I was voting against. Thus I could I not view it as any other than an authorised application in the Speaker's name. Though I did not expect this appeal from such a quarter, yet I felt satisfied with the conclusion and determined more than ever to give my vote.

Very speedily after the visit from Speaker Papineau's Brother-in-Law, being earnestly solicited, I went to tender my vote at the Poll. The following conversation took place then.

Stanley Bagg Esq. I am glad to see you Sir.

J. L. I am come to give my vote.

S. B. I am afraid it will injure your Institution.

J. L. I am perfectly certain it will not.

P. E. Leclere, I think it will.

J. L. I differ in opinion.

S. Bagg, I think you had better not vote. Another voter then came up.

P. E. Leclere. HERE is another voter *take* him instead.—This conversation took place in a whisper.

J. L. Now, took into immediate and deep consideration, the singular manner in which he had been solicited and in fact threatened as far as any future grants could influence him. To break his word was not possible, to injure his Institution was a serious concern at his period of life, either loss of income or loss of time by past experience, not being immediately followed up might be of consequence to mankind as well as himself.

He reviewed in a train of rapid thought, the zeal shown for the Lancasterian system of Education, many years before he entered the Province. The Speaker's professions of kindness, his acts indicative of good will—The esteem J. L. had for him and the open heartedness with which J. L. had opened his mind to him on all needful occasions. J. L. concluded that the refusal of his vote at a time the parties were so pressed, implied that his neighbour Leclerc derived his impressions from some surer source than J. L. was in possession of, and satisfied as he was with the declaration of the Speaker's Brother-in-Law—and believing that a plain statement of the case was all that was needful to satisfy the Speaker—J. L. decided at once, and went to the Speaker's house, requesting to see him, he was instantly favoured with an interview.

The following conversation then took place.

J. L. I am come to wait on my friend, in consequence of his name having been used to me, by persons soliciting my vote, in an extraordinary manner. As I cannot credit the possibility of their conduct being correct, I must think it unauthorised till I know the contrary.

Speaker Papineau—"I neither avow nor disavow what my friends do on the subject."

J. L.—"I feel it only a proper mark of respect to thee, as the avowed friend of my system of education, to offer an explanation of the vote which I have promised to give." Here a statement was given, which has already been recited of the origin and promise of the vote, showing that it was free and clear of all party whatever.

S. P.—In voting for Mr. Bagg, you vote for a party and a council, who have done every thing of an illiberal kind. From the House of Assembly has originated every act which gives freedom to the country. The Council, or party in whose influence Mr. Bagg is, have done all they can to enslave it.

J. L.—It is not with me a party question at all. Except on the subject of approving of Roman Catholic Emancipation, on the ground of religious liberty. I never expressed a public opinion in my life on any subject thought to have a bearing on politics, and that expression had not a political motive. From all such things I have kept clear; I have given, for the first time in my life, a promise to vote, my word is past; all men know that I have it in my power to keep it, and I must be degraded, indeed, if I break my engagement. Thou hast been in the habit of believing all I say on my own integrity, but what will my word be worth to thee, if I break it now. Thou wilt not confide in me any more.

I have told the persons, who solicited my vote, that I was certain thou could not wish me to dishonor myself by a breach of moral rectitude.

S. P.—I do not see it in that light. Every man should vote for the country on general interests. We have been under the dominion of a Scotch and English faction, base, tyrannical and proud enemies of the country. (Here the conversation became heart-sickening, it implied that many whom J. L. respected for high honor and benevolence in Canada, were nothing but a living Pandoras box of plagues to the country. That such a tirade of opprobrium should have been urged on Joseph Lancaster, against English Government, English Laws and Englishmen, was almost too much for patience itself, much more for nature to bear. H[illegible] though the Speaker did so far forg[et] himself, that he remembe[red] that he was in presence of an Englishm[an] who, however free from [could not easily be induced to ...

any body of respectable men, on the ipse dixit even of the Speaker, yet remembering what he considered the object of his visit, and passing by this unkind, if not insulting theme, he answered.)

J. L.—Whatever may have been the politics of different men, I have entered into none of them. My only question is one of *integrity*. Feeling has to follow, and I wish I could put thee in possession of my feelings for a short time. They would make an impression more powerful than all the conversation in the world.

I wish I could convert thee to Quakerism for five minutes, that thou might see that the principle on which I act is a question of conscience applied to a common action. I would not wish to make a permanent conversion. I should be glad to see thee put on thy Speaker's coat again in a few minutes, with a feeling of the correctness of my motives under it.

At hearing this the Speaker's face first relaxed into a smile and then he laughed outright.

J. L. proceeded.—I have 40 pupils under my care, who are either educated *gratis* or nearly so. Many of their parents have votes, I solicit none, I influence none, I attend no committees, I make no speeches, I write nothing in the papers, my vote is the least possible exercise of British freedom, I have never exercised it before. I have kept clear of all politics all my life, and I wish not now to be misunderstood.

S. P.—But other persons will not understand the reason of your vote.

J. L.—If I am misunderstood I can publish my reasons, my friend Joseph Burlingham has as correct a knowledge of the conscientious principle on which I act as I have done, and he does not see how I can do otherwise without a sacrifice of my veracity.

S. P.—I suppose you both go together. How does Mr. Burlingham vote?

J. L.—He has no vote.

S. P.—One vote is not much, but Austin Cuvillier is full of intrigue, and doing all he can, year after year, to pack a party. I think all private considerations should give way to public good.

J. L.—Had it been thy own case, I should certainly have reserved my vote for thee, it was always my intention.

Here a conversation occurred, in which J. L. gave particular reasons, why I could not vote for Dr. Tracey, but neither personal nor political. J. L. viewed his conduct in some particulars as injurious to the cause of education, which Speaker Pupineau had advocated, and considered that such conduct, if designed or erroneous, might lead in other things to a misapplication of membership in Parliament, but he is *dead*, and unless the statement is rendered indispensible, I do not wish to give it.

The Speaker, however, thought the objections did not apply, and that such considerations, in the way of voting for Dr. Tracey, should be given up.

J. L. respectfully differed in opinion.

S. P.—I am very sorry I cannot persuade people to do what is reasonable and for general good.

J. L.—Stanley Bagg has behaved [illegible] in a very considerate manner. I was this morning sent for to the Poll [illegible] my vote, and he declined it, it being alledged by a gentleman present [illegible] would injure my reputation in future. I told them I believed not, that [illegible] would not [illegible] reputation in such a manner, that [illegible]

assertable, combined with what they did not know of the previous threats of others. On these grounds I had resolved to see thee myself; although my vote had been declined, I still considered myself pledged, if again called upon, I must vote.

S. P.—*I would have you to consider how the land lies.*

J. L.—(Rising to go, but the conversation continued standing.)—I *consider* that nothing can excuse me if I intentionally violate my word. All men know I have power to keep it. Neither my respect for thee, nor a bribe of £500, could induce me to forego such a vote as I shall give from principle; in comparison with which, pecuniary considerations with me have no weight.

On this, the Speaker, with his usual politeness, accompanied me to the door, and when about to part, at the bottom of the stairs, these words passed.

J. L.—I truly regret that I have not been able to *convert* thee to Quakerism for five minutes, that thou mightest feelingly appreciate my motives and my actions.

S. P.—I am sorry, Mr. Lancaster, that I cannot convert you to a Canadian citizen.

J. L.—Throwing up his hands with emotion.—Thank God, I am a citizen of the world.

About two days afterwards, J. L. went down to the public Library, and on his return, towards the Emigrant Society Committee Room, he was accosted, in the Place d'Armes, by two gentlemen, A. Ferguson and R. Armour, Jun. They both solicited his instantaneous vote, saying that it was essential; then he accordingly went and gave his vote for Stanley Bagg, who returned thanks.

He then said: "I have been threatened on account of my intended vote, and in such a manner, that I would rather suffer death than give up the least particle of my birth right as a British freeman."

A voice, of a peculiar pitch, as if directed purposely to his ear, said:

"The House of Assembly will not be taught by such as you."

J. L. saw Horatio Gates at the Emigrant Society's Office, and told him how he had been threatened four times on account of his vote, besides numbers of hints, which he took for airy nothings.

He was soon informed that the above speech emanated from Lafontaine, M. P. P., a confidential friend of Speaker Papineau.

A. Ferguson accompanied J. L. from Robert Henderson's door to the Poll, and heard the speech of Lafontaine, M. P. P. He understood it as others did, to imply a threat that no vote should be granted J. L. at the next session of the Assembly; under this impression A. Ferguson published the fact in the Herald.

A few days after, J. L. was surprised by the individual, who had thus publicly insulted him, coming, with a companion, to plead his sweet unoffending innocence.

J. L. had a visit from two gentlemen [illegible] were not personally known to him; as they did not announce [illegible], he enquired their names, which they declined giving; one of [illegible] no reply, the other hesitated.

To the first [illegible] name [illegible] answered by another question. To the second [illegible] name [illegible] of no consequence, he only called

[illegible]

[illegible] Letters on the subject, to aid of J. L's. Institution, may be addressed to T. Lancaster, Post Office, Montreal.—Post paid.

[illegible]